

Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey

State of Tennessee

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

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Nashville, Tenn. February 24 - Lt. Governor Ramsey is proud to announce that the "Lost Heroes Art Quilt" continues its national tour today at the Tennessee State Capitol. The quilt was created as a gift to the nation honoring America's fallen heroes in Iraq and Afghanistan. Tennessee is the thirteenth state to honor the quilt at its capitol. The unveiling will occur immediately preceding the Senate session and the quilt will be on display just outside the Senate Chambers through March 3.

"This is simply a beautiful way to honor the those who have fallen in service to the United States and the state of Tennessee," said Lt. Gov. Ramsey. "I'm grateful that the tour has honored us with a spot on their route."

Sgt. Brandon Read is Tennessee's representative on the quilt. A member of the 125th Transportation Company and a Greenville, Tenn. native, Read died in Qayyarah West, Iraq, when his convoy came under attack by enemy forces using an improvised explosive device.

"Obviously nothing can replace the loss of a great Tennessean like Sgt. Read," said Sen. Steve Southerland, who represents Read's hometown of Greenville, "But it is a great sight to see him honored in this way."

Read's parents, Mike and Kelli Read have travelled to Nashville from Greenville and will be in attendance to witness the unveiling. Senators Dolores Gresham and Rusty Crowe will join Sen. Southerland in the Senate well for the unveiling.

"Those who have died in defense of our freedom deserve every memorial we can give them," said Sen. Gresham who just last session sponsored Public Chapter 169 which requires the Governor to declare a day of mourning for any member of the Tennessee National Guard slain in the line of duty. "This is a fitting tribute for Brandon."

"This quilt is a just an outstanding way allow us to reflect on those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their fellow man," said Chairman of the Joint Select Committee on Veterans Affairs Sen. Rusty Crowe. "I'm proud to stand with the Reads in honoring their beloved son."

Inspired by the story of her father, who narrowly escaped Hitler's grasp in WWII-era Poland, artist Julie Feingold created the five and half by fifteen foot quilt to be symbolically representatives of all of our fallen heroes. The quilt includes 82 heroes reflecting the diversity of America, 50 in the center representing each state, with 32 around the border. Each hero is honored with a photo surrounded by poignant words describing each of their unique personality, interests, dreams.

On March 7, the tour continues on to Fort Campbell.

On the web:

<http://www.heart2hand4art.com/lostheroesartquilt>